Application No.: 10/807,834
Amendment and Response dated November 5, 2004
Reply to Office Action of August 10, 2004
Docket No.: 744-20 CON/RCE/CON
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In the Specification:

Please replace paragraphs [0002] and [0043] with the following rewritten paragraphs:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

[0002] This application is a continuation of U.S. Application No. 10/459,899, filed June 12, 2003, now U.S. Patent No. 6,746,180 B2, ~~which claims the benefit~~ *which is a CONTINUATION* of U.S. Application No. 09/863,491, filed May 23, 2001, which issued as U.S. Patent No. 6,623,211 on September 23, 2003, and which claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 60/206,703, filed on May 24, 2000, the contents all of which are incorporated herein by reference

[0043] In the methods of the present invention, a buffering salt is added to maintain the acidity at a neutral or near neutral pH. The transition metal is further stabilized by the binding of the chelating agent. These modifications prevents the precipitation of the transition metal as an insoluble salt and further renders the entire process more biocompatible. The bioavailable degradation products may then be further degraded by the added microbial culture or consortium or by naturally-occurring microorganisms for more extensive remediation.

Please replace the abstract of the disclosure with the following rewritten abstract:

ABSTRACT

[0094] A method of treatment of a contaminated material contaminated with an organic compound ~~is provided~~. The method includes treating the contaminate with a bioremediation step followed by a chemical oxidation step. The bioremediation step ~~method~~ includes contacting the contaminate with a microbial consortium under conditions suitable for the consortium to mediate solubilization or biodegradation of the organic compound or ~~reaction~~ chemical oxidation products thereof. The subsequent chemical oxidation step includes treating the bioremediated contaminate with: a transition metal in soluble form; a chelator of the